

shield, that this plan actually endangers my granddaughters.

Today, a number of us participated in a press conference where Peace Action, Women's Action for New Directions, Physicians for Social Responsibility announced their plan to deliver thousands of petitions to Members of Congress from people across the country expressing opposition to Star Wars. I had visitors from the North Suburban Peace Initiative from my district who delivered that same message to my office.

I am proud and grateful that my constituents understand the risks and realities involved with President Bush's national missile defense plans. I hope that all of my colleagues had an opportunity to review the important materials that they and other committed citizens distributed on the Hill this week.

National missile defense is a program that is destined for failure on so many levels.

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NO NATIONAL MISSILE DEFENSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, since the Reagan administration, we have been urged by wishful thinkers to deploy a system for which workable technologies does not exist, and now many years and billions and billions of dollars later the Bush administration is still pursuing what I view is an irresponsible, unnecessary and unrealistic policy.

Mr. Speaker, the fact that it does not work and we have heard experts talk about how much it does not work is actually not the most important thing to me. The most important thing is that it really should not work, because I fear that moving forward with national missile defense will actually undermine our security by igniting Cold War II and will reverse the diplomatic progress we have made over the last decade. It will make us less safe and less secure.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. TIERNEY).

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) for yielding to me.

Let me just end this hour-plus, with the courtesy of our colleague, by saying that this administration, as I started off by saying, has a ready, shoot, in-their-name approach to this whole policy. This is much like what has been going on with a number of the policies of this administration. They have unilaterally claimed that the Kyoto Protocol was dead. They have started to retract on that and are now talking about limitations on carbon dioxide

and talking about cooperating with our international friends.

They have asserted that a pull-out of forces from the Balkans was imminent and now they are talking about cooperating and being sure that they do not pull out unilaterally.

They have talked about an express intent not to engage in the Middle East but reality has struck there and they have not only one envoy by two over there. They have talked about halting diplomatic initiatives in North Korea and now, in fact, they are starting to engage, or at least in all of these respects they are using semantics in talking about that. I hope they are being truthful in their attempt to move forward in that regard, although I fear that they may be just sort of smoothing and massaging what is going on while the President is abroad.

Today, their administration policies have always been leap before you think, leap before you look, whether it is domestic policy on the tax cut that cuts enormous amounts of money without deciding what we have for needs first or for obligations, and now we are talking about a national missile defense system which decidedly has not been proven to work, decidedly has not been tested and decidedly does not have tests planned to move us forward in that regard.

Now I understand that the Department of Defense is going to tell us that they are pulling back and in fact they are going to start a testing regime, with a white team and a blue team and a red team that are going to throw up countermeasures and test against them and have somebody evaluate that.

The fact of the matter is, Secretary of Defense Mr. Rumsfeld is still talking about deploying and moving forward at tremendous cost, not only financially but in terms of relationships and diplomatic relationships with other nations, even before we determine whether or not the system can work, even before we determine whether or not it fits within our priorities, given all the other needs that we have in national security and otherwise, and even before we determine whether or not it is going to fit into the plans of stability for this Nation and the world.

So I hope that this tonight was a start in a conversation on this. I hope that we can impress upon the Secretary of Defense to allow us to release to the public Mr. Coyle's report from the OT&E office so that we can discuss that and debate it openly. It talks about some serious reservations and some serious concerns about moving forward and deploying before, in fact, we should be.

I thank the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) for joining us on that and all the other Members who participated tonight and I look forward to an open debate so the American people can really understand what is in-

involved here and what is at stake and the dangers and responsibilities attendant to it.

GLOBAL WARMING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I will be discussing global warming tonight but I would like to just say one or two words and I would hope that my colleagues in the next presentation about the strategic defense initiative will have a debate. I would be very happy, along with others here, to participate on the other side of that issue.

Let me just say I could not disagree with my colleagues more on the issue of missile defense. I am the chairman of the Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics and we do have the capacity and the capability of knocking down an enemy missile that might have a nuclear warhead that would murder millions of Americans.

Should we have a defense to prevent millions of Americans from being incinerated if the Communist Chinese would launch a rocket at us? I think that it is prudent that we try to develop the system.

The answer to many of the questions that were brought up tonight is that if the system does not work and cannot be made to work, we will not buy the system. It is incumbent upon us, incumbent upon us, to spend the money that is necessary to see if that system can be developed. I believe it not only can be developed but we have already knocked out of the sky several missiles that were launched from other locations without a previous flight plan, I might add.

What we have today, we knew they were coming but not exactly what the flight plan was. Let me just say this, in the future I would hope, especially the young lady with two grandchildren, that she does not face a situation where an American President is told the Chinese have just launched a missile; there is nothing we can do, nothing we can do but let it incinerate a part of the United States. I hope her children are not there or her grandchildren are not there. We have to look at this as a real possibility.

The Communist Chinese have dramatically expanded the capabilities of their missile offense, and mutually assured destruction means nothing to that enemy. Those Americans who are listening to this might think it would be prudent that America in the future would have a system to defend itself in case the Communist Chinese would threaten the United States with an attack that would murder millions of its people unless we give in. I think it is a very prudent course of action.